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SERIOUS HINTS

T O

ADMINISTRATION.

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SERIOUS HINTS  
TO  
ADMINISTRATION.

BY

A Member of P—m—t.

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*O Navis, referent in mare te novi  
Fluctus? O! quid agis? Fortiter occupa  
Portum. Nonne vides, ut  
Nudum remigio latus,  
Et malus celeri saucius Africo,  
Antennæque gemant; ac sine funibus  
Vix durare carinæ  
Possint Imperiosius  
Æquor? non tibi sunt integra lintea;  
Non Di, quos iterum pressa Voces malo.*

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L O N D O N:  
Printed for J. RIDLEY, in St. James's Street.

M D C C L X I X.

\* \* \* The Author intends speedily to publish a real and genuine Account of all the different and succeeding Administrations since the Year 1760, with their separate Views, Interests, and Connections relative to that Grand Point and Object, THE PUBLIC GOOD.

RPJCH



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SERIOUS HINTS  
TO  
ADMINISTRATION.

GENTLEMEN,

1st. **T**Hrough the channel of this small Treatise, let me convey my thoughts to the present administration, in regard to your being thoroughly reconciled to the passing of the *Nullum Tempus* Bill, Intituled, A Bill to amend and render more effectual, An Act made in the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the reign of king James I. Intituled, An Act for the general quiet of the subjects against all pretences of concealment whatsoever.

B

This

This is a Bill of the greatest importance to the subject, and ultimately so to the crown of any one that has or can possibly come before you ; it is an Act nearly parallel, as to the form of it, to that of the 21st of James ; but the times in which that passed, are widely different from the present ; the frequent encroachments of the crown made it highly necessary, that a line should be drawn between the crown and the people ; and that the hungry appetite of James I. should not be rapacious enough to devour the possessions of his subjects, nor to follow the advice of my Lord Coke, who privately has planned a scheme to govern this nation without a parliament, by encreasing the possessions and revenues of the crown. Such, Gentlemen, were the iniquitous and encroaching proceedings of those times, that it became highly expedient to pass such an act,



act, and to make the subject a quiet and easy title to his possession, by limiting the uninterrupted enjoyment of it for sixty years retrospect, as a security against the crown ; but though it was the desire of some of the parliament at that time to have given a further security to their successors, in a sixty years prospect, yet it could not be obtained ; but only a sixty years possession from the present time of that parliament ; that act being many years ago ineffectual, and the people now out of doors, not knowing how far the rapacious hand of *you*, Gentlemen, the present administration, may stretch itself with unbounded authority, urged on by the self-occasioned distresses of your government, over the possessions of the people ; I say, Gentlemen, not daring to trust themselves under the shelter of the wings of birds of passage, have thought fit, in the present boisterous, hazy, and

sky-portending mischief season, to adopt  
 a few firm standards of uprightness, and  
 build a shed for themselves; and have  
 therefore brought in a bill, not only  
 with a retrospect for their own good, but  
 with a prospect for their successors; 'tis  
 they, Gentlemen, who have gone thro'  
 the best part of their life, who think  
 that being called to parliament, there is  
 more honour in the future preservation  
 of our successor's rights, by securing  
 them, than by a selfish regard to the  
 present times only. Good God, Gentle-  
 men, are you justified either in the eyes  
 of God or man, in looking only to the  
 welfare of yourselves, and totally disre-  
 garding posterity. Does the navigator  
 draw a chart of the Seas, into which he  
 is never to come again for himself; or  
 does he do it as a security to future navi-  
 gators, to prevent their being subject to  
 like misfortunes in the voyage?

This



This bill then, Gentlemen, being formed upon the most equitable principles and fairest ground, between the crown and the people, that the foresight of human prudence could suggest, for drawing the proper line to the pretended claims of the crown, and for securing the property and possessions of the subject from tedious vexatious suits; and the ultimate result of such a bill will be securing the love of the people, and thereby gaining an inestimable treasure to the crown, which it never otherwise could possess, I mean those unalienable affections of a grateful people, which are the true revenues and inestimable resources and treasures held by the best and most honourable title in the world, the crown doing every thing for the good of the subject. What a blessing to this kingdom would such mutual confidence be productive of,

of, when the prerogative of the crown is only stretched out to the well-being and security of the people; whenever it is otherwise used, it becomes dangerous to royalty and subversive of the constitution, and exceeding the bounds of reason and humanity, ought not in such degrees to exist any longer. But, Gentlemen, we have one of the most gracious and best of princes upon the throne, whose crown smiles at receiving, being able and willing to redress, the grievances and complaints of his subjects; and perhaps no age has had greater reason: an act of grace at an accession, is a sample of the merciful behaviour and reign of kings, and is therefore pledged to his people for his future behaviour. For God's sake then, Gentlemen, fully not the present lustre of so great and so gracious a monarch, to the eyes of his loving subjects,



jects, by your opposition to measures that would certainly rivet and fix their hearts, with inseparable wishes of success, to the present reign; or, Gentlemen, if you so far neglect your most respectful lord and master, you will not, I trust, be so careless of your own safety, as not to do *one single* act to please the people. Do not pass through this annual rotation employment, without endeavouring, by some means or other, to conciliate the affections of the people with administration in some degree; do not stigmatize your already gone Credit with the people, by a continual undoing; rather leave off with doing nothing than that. Consider well, Gentlemen, the stability of your own employments, and that it is only the keeping or losing the good will of the multitude, that will, in the end, give the clearest and fairest title to them. Popularity is one of the virtues



virtues of which you never was accused of ; Unpopularity seems to be the *Dii Lares* of your administration ; and I am afraid, as long as you Last, will always intrude themselves upon you (though I beg pardon for the word intrude) I mean will be always part of the company, and will by and by, if the family stays in town much longer, dance cotillions with you : but, Gentlemen, I will now be serious, and if you neglect yourselves and your king (I write so because I have been taught so, *Ego & meus Rex*, which words the present school of administration has told me the English of) : surely you will not disregard the credit, the honour of parliament, however you may trifle with yourselves and majesty. You know, you cannot be ignorant what is said abroad, that it is a f——e a r——d and an ar——y parliament. For God's sake do something then



then to wipe off that stain, if it is so; don't let it lie under that disgrace; Pass the Act and Please the People. Rivet their affections to the Crown, and forfeit their *present opinion* of yourselves, by acting chearfully and willingly for their good. But I forgot, did I say willingly? when 205 Aye's for the bill is a compulsive clause against 124 No's. Attempt not, therefore, your strength upon the Report; but look as if you all intended it. (Oh dear, we never meant to oppose the principle, or indeed any part of the bill, but only to make it a little palatable to the House. Oh, did you so?) But I must again observe, that it is formed upon the fairest ground, tending to draw the most equitable line between the usurpations of an arbitrary administration, and the just rights from almost centuries of possession, of an honest and

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upright



upright people, almost adoring their truly beloved monarch. By this bill they have substituted the Love instead of the Fear of their King; and take my word for it, Gentlemen, the surest and unsquandered treasures of a crown are the hearts and affections of the people; and they are, by a wicked and self-corrupted administration, destroyed and prevented from making their approach on the one hand, or by an honest or upright set of Patriots, united and riveted on the other hand. Thus, Gentlemen, you may prevent or destroy the intended blessing of a nation that would otherwise subsist in a mutual affection; and thus, Gentlemen, You Do, by not giving your assistance to the passing this bill, chearfully, with an honest public integrity. Are there any clauses in it that can possibly admit of the least objection. In regard to the  
pro-



Prospect, what can be Justice and Right now, that cannot be Justice and Right sixty years hence. Or is this sample administration of arbitrary government, to be by that time ripened and confirmed to a monarchial one. Surely, Gentlemen, *Your foresight* cannot lead you so far, nor would you die with less bitter remorse, were you to please yourselves with the Idea of it; and that you had laid the first stone, but of a building, which, thank my God, the Builders have refused. Was I king of E——d, I would change my possessions of Land for the Affections of my People; and should think myself, as our gracious Monarch does, as having procured a better Title to my illustrious Throne, and a wilful treasure for the support of it, to be paid without distress. I don't wonder the principle of the bill is misunderstood

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stood



stood by those who have no Principle at all; but the doubts of Lawyers will never puzzle an honest mind. I must make bold to tell those Gentlemen the principle of the bill is alone to be formed from the clauses in it; and those, whose hesitating mind starts back upon hearing of them, I am in great doubt whether they can ever form any principle at all. But, Gentlemen, the next time you go to battle, let me advise, according to the eastern custom, to have all your Elephants and Bulls ready, and draw them up in front, and then, when the shot is played briskly off at them, they will turn round, and put your whole force and numerous army in confusion; and you will be able to see the disorder of your own troops, much sooner than you otherwise would have done, which will learn you how to make



make a handsome retreat. But, Gentlemen, were I to mention the many instances wherein you have struggled for the publick good, nay the very many nights, as well as days, where you risked your health, and left your dear Families elsewhere ; the many and very arduous tasks you have undertook for the public good, which though you might think it would fill up a large volume, yet, at present, I must certainly leave it a *Carte Blanche*, wherein I may recount, in future, the actual blessings of the next succeeding administration. People have not lost all sense of feeling without doors, if they had, I apprehend, the Terrible gripes they have had of late would pinch them to the quick. What will future historians say ? when they come to form an estimate of the virtue and wisdom of the present administration ; with what eyes would they see them ?

would



would they describe them amidst the universal distress of the people, Trifling with their Misery, and blowing up the coals of f---d---n, already perhaps too hotly kindled among them, into downright discontent and rebellion. For God's sake read, Gentlemen, and know in what latitude you are, and trust not your Bark in so uncertain and boisterous a sea. What have you done with respect to the internal grievances of the Kingdom? The high price of corn, and of all provisions, regarding the poorer sort? what with respect to the conciliation of our colonies? what with regard to the mutual confidence in trade between us? what with the corrupt practices at elections? what with regard to extinguishing the Feudal Vassalages of Manerial customs in exchange for the more ascertained Property and Liberty of a free country? what in respect to the alter-



alteration and better provision for the poor? what for the many local grievances of particular individuals? what for preventing the arrears of the civil list encreasing? what with respect to the Circumscribing and Limiting the number of Placemen and Pensioners? what in regard to the corrupt practices of returning officers? and what with the numberless other oppressions too tedious here to mention? and which, were I to describe them, as hereafter I intend to do separately, would make the press team again with Iniquity, so much that any Pure Actions of the next succeeding Administration could not be printed after with the same type, but must have a new set and press. The little, very little, attention paid to the sufferings of the people convinces me that you never intended any Complaint either to be heard



heard or redressed; what in the name of God have you done? You have trifled with every thing you have entered upon. What have you done with East India affairs after a whole years consideration? What was to be done with those immense territorial acquisitions which some of the best blood of this nation has been spilt to obtain, together with an aid granted by parliament at different times of near five millions? What have you done after this length of time which has been given you, not only to consider the true State of those acquisitions and the proper Participation which the publick are intitled to? I ask what you have effected? What advantageous Bargain have you made? As the guardians of the Public why have you deign'd with a weakness unparrelled to submit to the company's own terms? that is 400,000*l.*  
*per*



*per Annum*, for five years, rather than be at the trouble of minutely entering into the true State of their affairs ; was this for want of Ability or Time ? the last it could not be, for you had twelve months or more to consider of it ; the former I grant it may ; you now therefore intend to accept 400,000 *l. per Annum*, for five years, a great acquisition truly to the public. No, Gentlemen, the Acquisition is on the other side ; 'tis they that have over-reached your knowledge, and are happy in the Deceit. Did you ever, during the whole time of your consideration, ever call in the advice of the Conqueror of the Indies ? of him who has Throned and dethroned Nabobs at his pleasure. I say, did you ever ask his advice ? if you had, 'twas he alone could have told you the true and flourishing state of India, he would have informed

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you



you where Resources of Revenue could come from, and where, after you had ransacked every corner in this island, for an immediate supply, and called in vain for fresh relief, from your colonies, you might have supported this rotten constitution, and feasted the Exigencies of government with almost a sufficient supply, at least from knowing a true state of those acquisitions, and the produce upon their Trade, you might have been in some degree enabled to have kept off, for a time, part of those Oppressive taxes under which burthen We must first Groan, and in a short time be crushed to Death. So you have patched up the matter, in order that the wound may be for the present skinned over, that in five years the irruption may break out again, with such violence, that it will be like an explosion, and will, in the end, mortify and canker,



canker, till the Body is no more. Why did you not consider well what system of government would be most proper to be adopted for their benefit, what fresh charters for the protection of their trade were necessary, and what line of Policy should be laid down with respect to India for the future, in order that something fixed and permanent, might be determined upon for the mutual satisfaction of the Public and the Company. Suppose a war should break out in India, and the state of affairs should still alter, you are each tied down to a futile agreement, that will be detrimental to both. The public must necessarily support some part of the expences of the war, and Little is the sum to Repay them ; on their side the uncertainty of their charter, and want of other Determinations and Acts relating to the benefit of their trade. Thus you are bewildered ; and



never put any thing upon a Permanent Fixed, and unalterable Plan. Thus you Deceive yourselves and the Public; and thus you fail, by a want of abilities in pursuing the public good, if you really ever had any such thing in pursuit. In regard to the propriety of the bargain with the India company, and the knowledge of the true state of that country, you are just in the same situation as you were a year ago, not one inch farther; your pleasures and other employments have taken place of your enquiries. I should rather impute it to a neglect of exercising your little faculties in the Public service. The noble lord, that Conqueror of India, would, no doubt, have lent you his Abilities upon the present Occasion; and you would have at once been informed (by hearing a true state of it) of one of the richest Possessions in the world; from whence



whence an Administration having worn out and weighed down, with oppressive Loads of taxes, their own little Island, and made attempts to be assisted from Ireland and other places, might be furnished with a Resource of Revenue, almost (if well protected) inexhaustible. But, Gentlemen, I believe I shall soon take the liberty of giving my thoughts to you in a future Treatise more fully upon this occasion, upon the Immense Riches of the Company, and the Vast territorial acquisitions in India, and point out Methods of Future Supply, which, my almost Bankrupt Country will then stand greatly in need of; Happy shall I be if I can save it but one Gasps more. This, Gentlemen, as money was to be got by it, I should have thought it would have engaged your attention, but as That has not, I find Nothing will. But soon, too soon, alas! shall we find the dreadful Effects  
of



of your Neglect ; if France should in these five years wage War upon Bengal, or any of the settlements in India, whose immense riches lie as an alluring Bait to a Perfidious People, envying those Possessions, and fond of Power ; and this happening when divisions and distractions are the reigning foibles among you at home ; the Company and Proprietors dissatisfied and uncertain ; their Directors at home, and Council abroad thwarting the Military, and the Military flighting the direction of the council ; among these Disorders suspect an attentive vigilance in France upon the East India possessions : the eye of a Perfidious Enemy is always upon you, they will sure take some Advantageous Step towards these acquisitions ; and I prophet, before the expiration of the *Company's grant to you*, for five years, then your successors will see in a true light the Ministerial

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Conjurers of 1769. Then the produce of all your Cabals will be naked to public view, and the memory of past Treachery deeply engraved on the tomb stone of this undone, dying, and then departed state.

Now, Gentlemen, Lay your hands upon your hearts, and ask yourselves only, whether you think you are fit to govern this Country and Guide the Helm of state; whether in the stormy seas, in which you have carried the bark without compass, Log-book, or line, you can ever expect to find a safe harbour. Do, Gentlemen, let George the old Pilot; Edmund the Cockswain (who by the Bye is one of the Cutest Clearest headed fellows in the whole Ship, and is able to Outweather any storm in whatever seas the Tempest rises) Isaac the boatwain; William, Charles, Jack, Tom, and Dick the mates, and the rest, take the management of the bark. Consider how valuable a Treasure you have on  
on



board, 'tis no less than the Produce of the Richest and best part of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, all shipped aboard the Britannia. Do, Gentlemen, let me intreat you, before the Crew Mutiny, they are already, and have been this long time upon short allowance.

Think at least, and at last, to preserve their lives, if the Ship cannot be saved; but I have not the least doubt that if you will give up the helm, but that Providence will cause the storm to cease, and the bark to ride in safety. I have now given you my sentiments in a very frank manner. I think speaking plain is the best, as I am able to draw nearer my point by a concise argument; I shall in future, as I see occasion, take the liberty of employing two or three hours again in the like manner, as this is the work of no longer time.

*Feb. 28, 1769.*

— W —